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TAGS: PARM PREL PTER KGIC GM
SUBJECT: GICNT: GERMANY NOTIFIED OF NEW DATES; QUESTIONS

GICNT'S FUTURE WITHIN G-8, G-20

REF: STATE 83550

11. (U) Econoff delivered reftel points to German MFA desk officer Dr. Bernd Rinnert. Russian MFA First Secretary Dmitry Cherkaschin also attended. Rinnert thanked Econoff for the information.

 $\underline{\P}2$. (SBU) Rinnert wondered aloud how the GICNT fits into the G-20 as it overtakes the G-8 and, presumably, the G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Nuclear Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. He stated that the G-20 members have fewer overlapping common interests than the G-8 members. As an example, he stated that Saudi Arabia (as a G-20 member) has less interest in Russia's nuclear program than the G-8 members. He likened the potential difficulties in gaining consensus on issues in the expanded G-20 forum to those experienced in the EU after its expansion to 27 members. MURPHY